

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 1931

NODIS

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IR, IS
SUBJ: BEGIN MEETING WITH SHAH

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY SUMMONED ME AFTERNOON OF
FEBRUARY 25 AND EMPHASIZING MATTER WAS "TOP SECRET" ASKED
THAT FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE PASSED TO THE PRESIDENT FROM THE SHAH.

2. QUOTE- I MET WITH MR. BEGIN ON THE 23 OF FEBRUARY. HE EXPLAINED
TO ME THE KNOWN ISRAELI POSITION AND ALL THAT CONSTITUTES A
MENACING SITUATION TO HIS COUNTRY WHICH HAS TO FACE 11,000 TANKS,
MORE THAN 2000 WAR PLANES, SEVERAL THOUSAND ARTILLERY GUNS AND
ABOUT 10,000 APC'S FROM POTENTIAL ENEMIES. MR. BEGIN EXPLAINED THE
ISRAELI PLAN FOR THE WEST BANK CONSISTING OF MAJOR RECTIFICATIONS
(FOR HIM) OF THE PRESENT BORDER AND ALSO HIS IDEAS ABOUT THE SINAI.
ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION SPECIFICALLY SETTLEMENTS IN THE SINAI.
HE ALSO EXPLAINED HIS GREAT CONCERN AND WORRY ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA
GETTING F-15'S AS WELL AS ALL THE DIFFICULTIES HE HAS TO FACE
FROM HIS OPPOSITION IN ISRAEL.

I STATED THAT IN MY OPINION IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL AND
ESPECIALLY IN THE INTEREST OF ISRAEL TO MAKE PEACE WITH EGYPT AND
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE PRESIDENT SADAT IS SO REASONABLE. I EVEN TOLD HIM
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THAT I DID NOT KNOW IF I WAS IN PRESIDENT SADAT'S POSITION WHETHER I
WOULD GO AS FAR AS HE HAS GONE, NOTING THAT SADAT EVEN WANTED
TO HAVE JOINT VENTURES WITH ISRAEL IN THE SINAI AND ELSEWHERE.
THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL DEMANDS THAT IT SHOULD HAVE SECURE
BORDERS AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY, AT LEAST ON HER WESTERN FRONT. IF
ISRAEL COULD MAKE PEACE WITH EGYPT THE SAUDIS COULD NOT ADOPT
ANY POSITION OTHER THAN THAT OF THE EGYPTIANS.

MY VIEW IS THAT THE WEST BANK OF JORDAN SHOULD HAVE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS, THAT THE WESTERN BANK SHOULD BE DEMILITARIZED AND GIVEN TO JORDAN WHO WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THE PALISTANIANS WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN. THIS WOULD PERMIT JORDAN TO NEGOTIATE PEACE AT THE SAME TIME AS EGYPT. I ALSO SAID THAT I BELIEVE PRESIDENT SADAT WANTED PEACE AND THAT HE HAD NO AMBITIONS TOWARD THE EAST AND THAT HIS MAIN PROBLEMS WERE WITHIN EGYPT AND IN AFRICA. FOR EGYPT, JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA THE DREADFUL ALTERNATIVE TO MAKING PEACE IS THAT HE WOULD JOIN THE REJECTION FRONT WITH ALL THE CONSEQUENCES.

I DID REPEAT THAT I CONSIDER THE CREATION OF AN INDEEDENT STATE OF PALESTINE AS A VERY DANGEROUS THING. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS I SUGGESTED THAT THE OPPOSITION IN ISRAEL SHOULD USE THEIR HEADS MORE RATHER THAN TO FOLLOW THEIR HEARTS AND SENTIMENTS. - UNQUOTE

3. I ASKED HOW THE SHAH HAD FOUND BEGIN. KHALATBARY SAID THAT CONSIDERING BEGIN'S OPPOSITION IN ISRAEL AND HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AND ATTITUDE THE SHAH HAD NOT FOUND HIM AS UNREASONABLE MAN. HE HAD LISTENED TO WHAT THE SHAH HAD TO SAY AND STATED HIS OWN POSITION CALMLY AND UNEMOTIONALLY.
MIKLOS

SECRET

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